



## Informal Education

Selected Programs and Platforms

- Earth Explorers Institute (David Herring)
- \*Earth To Sky (Anita Davis)
- \*Art in Science (Michael Starobin)
- ViewSpace & Magic Planet (Steve Graham)
- \*Earth Today (Barbara Schoeberl)
- \*EOS Aura (Maurice Henderson)
- \*SOS User Group (Maurice Henderson)



# Earth to Sky: An Innovative Partnership <a href="http://www.earthtosky.org">http://www.earthtosky.org</a>



Actively fostering collaborative work between the science and interpretation/education communities of NPS and NASA.

Ultimately enriching the experiences of millions of park visitors.



### **Audience**

#### **Proximate**

NPS Ranger Interpreters and Trainers



#### **NASA Science Content**

- Earth System Science
- Astrobiology
- Comparative Planetology
- Sun-Earth Connection
- Space Science





#### **Ultimate**

Visiting public at National Parks

- •273 Million+ recreational visits to America's National Parks in 2005
- •NPS National Survey (2000) Over 1/3 of the US population visits a National Park unit in the course of two years







54 National Park Sites

60 Interpretive Rangers

Earth to
Sky
Workshops
2004-2005

Informal Education, NASA Headquarters

NASA Scientists & E/PO Personnel

NPS National Capital & Pacific West Regions
NPS Mather Training Center National Program Manager

Goddard Space Flight Center
AMES Research Center
Jet Propulsion Lab

#### Collaborative Partnership

Two-tiered Training
Strategy

- 10 Interpretive Facilitators
- 50 Interpretive Rangers =
- 60 Interpreters trained with transferability to others in NPS

Two tiers of Results





Exemplary products developed for use in future professional development

- Sun-Earth Connection at Bryce Canyon
- Global Climate Change Tutorial

Web Site established <a href="http://www.earthtosky.org">http://www.earthtosky.org</a> Professional Development

- National Interpreters Conference (>50)
- Astronomical Society of the Pacific (30)

Collaborative spin-off projects under development

- Mars Public Engagement Team + Landsat/LDCM
   Grand Canyon animation fly-through
- Astronomy 101
- Teacher workshops





Millions of Visitors are Learning about NASA Science at Parks throughout the Nation



Jr. Space Ranger
Activities and Badge
Delaware Water Gap





Never Summer, Ever Summer Rocky Mountain National Park Interpretive Program



brochure, tutorial, and

display for use nation-wide

Life/Water Connections on Earth and Mars, K-12 Curriculum Amistad National Recreation Area



Night Watch/Sky Watch: The Universe Through the Lens of Science and the Native American Perspective Canyon de Chelly

### FTE and Sponsorship

LDCM/Landsat .25 fte

Sun-Earth Connection UC Berkeley .25 fte

Funding source NASA Explorer Institute Grants 200 K year one; 150 k year two

Extensive NPS and NASA In-kind Contributions







### **Future Goals**

- Deepen and broaden partnership
- Build sustainability
- Provide more in-depth, high-quality professional development
- Conduct intensive evaluation of effectiveness

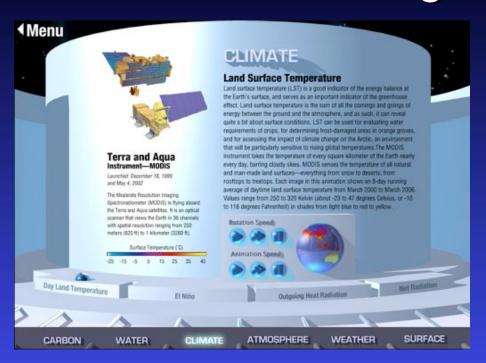


## Informal Education

Art in Science Communications:
Create Stickiness

Michael Starobin

### NASA's Magic Planet



A digital video globe that allows users to view and explore dynamic digital images of the earth and other planets.

- Currently, 24 data sets categorized by 6 science themes
- Development has begun on a new touch screen interface to integrate all the divisions of the Science Mission Directorate
- Conference exhibits, launches, Smithsonian Museum of Natural History exhibit on climate change, and (soon) Goddard Visitor Center

### ViewSpace



A popular and growing network of astronomy and Earth science exhibits from the STScI. Implemented at science centers, museums, planetaria, nature centers, and libraries.

- Relevant science data from NASA's Earth Science missions is frequently featured in the form of:
  - Earth image of the day a simple template driven design using a new satellite image, title and interpretive caption, leveraged heavily from the Earth Observatory Image of the Day and Natural Hazards Websites
  - Earth Science features 5-10 minute feature on a relevant and timely Earth science topic. To date, three features have been produced; Invasive Species, Hurricanes, and the Cryosphere



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Earth Today: A unique platform for delivering near-real time views of Earth Science data

Barbara Schoeberl

## EOS Aura - Informal Education

2005-2008

#### /Employ

Support for Medgar Evers College ozonesonde launches

<u>Based on NASA Education</u> <u>Strategic Framework</u>

**Higher Education** 

#### **Educate**

Publish brochure of science results

Elementary/secondary Education

Develop data-rich inquiry activities using MyNASAData (with LARC)

Conduct workshops for teachers, build network: GLOBE in CA; NASA Explorer Schools; Maryland Assn of Environmental and Outdoor Education; Maryland Backyard Habitat Program; EET chapter on climate change using Aura data

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#### Engage

Smithsonian exhibit, "Change Is in the Air;" moving to GSFC Visitor Center; Aura Ozone Monitoring Garden at GSFC VC; Workshop for Girl Scouts; data for Earth Today and Science on a Sphere; Ideas and resources for SOS stories; Science Cafes

#### Inspire

Aura Web site, Science on a Sphere

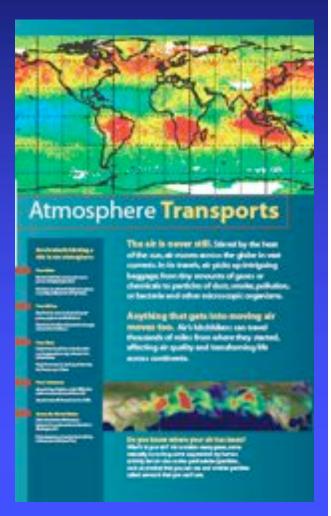
### **Aura Informal Education**

**Product:** "Change Is in the Air" exhibit at Smithsonian Institution and at GSFC Visitor Center

**Description:** Multimedia exhibit about atmospheric transport, chemistry, and air quality at the National Museum of Natural History (2006) and GSFC Visitor Center (2007)

Target audience: General public; museum, science center visitors

Metrics: Smithsonian Evaluation



### **Aura Informal Education**

**Product:** Earth Explorer Institute, "Earth by Aura: Ultraviolet Radiation Data Collection by and for the Public"

**Description:** Partnership with Maryland Science Center and Bishop Museum to teach the public about UV radiation

Target audience: General public; museum and science center visitors

Metrics: Monthly progress reports from partnering museums







### **Aura Informal Education**

Program: Aura Data on Science on a Sphere

Description: Aura data, including tropospheric ozone, nitrogen dioxide, and sulfur dioxide projected in three-dimensional space onto Sphere at GSFC Visitor Center

Target Audience: General Public





## Science on a Sphere User Group



- •NOAA funded development and deployment n=15+
- •Content development and collaboration
- Technical enhancement
- •\$2.4M in Outreach spending todate

- •Interactive Experience
- •Cross Platform content
- •Formal Ed. Program
- •Exhibit Hall setting
- •News Media opp.s





## SOS User Group

#### Museums hosting SOS

- Bishop Museum
- •lmiloa
- Maryland Science Center
- McWane Science Center
- Orlando Science Center
- Science Museum of Minnesota
- •Smithsonian Museum of Natural History
- The Tech Museum of Innovation

#### Agencies & Colleges hosting SOS

- •Fiske Planetarium
- James Madison University
- •NASA/GSFC
- •National Maritime Museum of the

**Gulf of Mexico** 

- Nauticus
- •NOAA Thunder Bay Marine Sanctuary

#### Content and Program providers

AMNH Animated Earth

Hampton University Institute For Learning Innovation

Monadnock Media NASA NOAA

University of Wisconsin 42 Degrees North



## Partnership with NOAA

- SOS is a technology that provides a perfect venue for both NOAA & NASA data.
- A wealth of resources in both agencies to present science content.
- NASA offers a lot to SOS
  - NASA has pushed the envelope for content development on SOS
  - ♦ NASA offers expertise NOAA does not have: in working with networks of museums and science centers to create relationships that are mutually beneficial.
  - NASA has state of the art capabilities in information management and visualization software development





## **SOS Content Themes**

**IPY** 

Corals

Land use changes

Marine life's changing environment

Climate change



## SOS Evaluations

## Evaluations to go beyond visitor dwell time to assess the educational impact

Orienting first time viewer
User kiosks that control SOS
Explanation of scientific phenomenon
Impact of SOS in a formal ed program

How complex should the concepts be?

Misconceptions or lack of knowledge among viewers



## Power to present Earth System Science in a way that captivates viewers...



Photo credit: Hampton University